

REMARKS

Claims 1-46 remain pending in the application. Claims 1 and 26 have been amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 26 can be found in Figure 2 and page 7, line 29 – page 8, line 1 of the specification, among other places.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections:

Claims 1-16, 25, and 26-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodrum, U.S. Patent 5,922,060, in view of Sakarda, U.S. Patent 6,505,258. Claims 17-22 and 42-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodrum in view of Sakarda and in further view of Harari, U.S. Patent 6,381,662. Claims 23-24 and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodrum in view of Sakarda and in further view of Harari and in further view of Olarig, U.S. Patent 6,047,343. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The cited references, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the features of the independent claims. Goodrum teaches a circuit card for use with a computer system having a card slot electrically connected to a bus. The card slot has electrical contacts corresponding to lines of the bus. The circuit card has a first pin positioned to extend into the card slot when the card is inserted into the slot and contact a first electrical contact of the slot corresponding to a communication line of the bus. The circuit card also has a second pin positioned to extend into the card slot when the card is inserted into the slot and contact a second electrical contact of the slot corresponding to a clock line of the bus before the first pin contacts the first electrical contact.

Sakarda teaches a system for allowing surprise insertion and removal of a peripheral device from the bays of a portable computer system. The peripheral device may be inserted or removed when the portable computer system is powered off, powered on, or in standby or sleep mode. The peripheral device may be any one of a multitude of devices corresponding to the IDE, ATAPI or FLOPPY standard. Insertion or removal of

the device is operating system and BIOS independent. A constantly executing detection process determines when a peripheral device has been inserted into or removed from a bay.

In contrast, Applicant's independent claim 1 recites:

"A computer system comprising ...

a bus interface unit

a first daughtercard configured to assert a first configuration change signal ...

a second daughtercard configured to assert a second configuration change signal

...

wherein said bus interface unit includes a storage unit including a first storage location for storing a state of said first configuration change signal and a second storage location for storing a state of said second configuration change signal, and wherein the first storage location is coupled to receive the first configuration change signal via a first signal line and the second storage location is coupled to receive the second configuration change signal over a second signal line that is separate from the first signal line." (emphasis added)

Independent claim 26 recites a similar combination of features.

Neither Goodrum nor Sakarda, taken singly or in combination, teach or suggest a bus interface unit coupled to receive a first configuration change signal via a first signal line and a second configuration change signal via a second signal line. Furthermore, Applicant can find no teaching, suggestion, or motivation in either reference to combine the teachings of Sakarda with Goodrum in order to produce the combination of features of the independent claims. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the standard for

obviousness has not been met, and thus removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

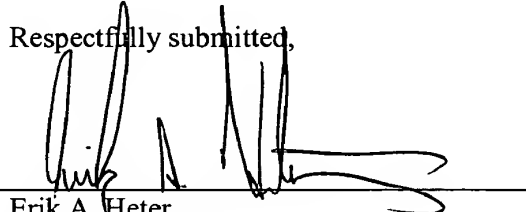
With respect to the remaining 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections, Applicant submits that, for at least the reasons stated above, that the cited references do not teach or suggest all of the limitations of the independent claims. Removal of the remaining § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5181-35900/BNK.

Respectfully submitted,



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